them to retreat. The German Ambassador in London, after an interview with Lansdowne in August, reported that where treaty rights existed Germany could safely take a strong line; but control of a. harbour on the Atlantic would probably be opposed, and a political challenge to France would range England on her side. Metternlch's interpretations of British policy, though often ignored, were invariably correct.

The Franco-Spanish declaration of October 3, which accompanied the secret Franco-Spanish treaty, provoked no official protest but aroused the same angry suspicion at Berlin as at Fez. It was in vain that Delcasse explained that the new pact, in securing the adhesion of Madrid to the principle of commercial liberty, had strengthened the guarantees of international commerce in Morocco. At the same time the victories of Japan over Russia were visibly sapping the power and prestige of the Dual Alliance. When Kuhlmann took over the Legation at Tangier as Charge d'Affaires in October, 1904, the temperature' fell rapidly. The grievances of the German Colonial Party, he declared, were receiving more attention in the highest quarters, and the Chancellor was being reproached for not securing the commercial advantages obtained by England and Spain. Taillandier, the French Minister, was uncertain how far these sentiments were those of the German Government, but* they were ominous enough as the first indication by a German diplomatist of a coming challenge to the ambitions of France.

The despatch of a French envoy to Fez at the end of 1904 with a comprehensive programme of reforms was the signal for a change of front at Berlin. On February n, 1905, the French Charge at Tangier reported an ominous conversation with his German colleague. "After the Anglo-

French arrangement/' observed Kuhlmann, " we supposed the French Government was waiting for the Franco-Spanish agreement before putting us in possession of the new situation ; but now that everything is settled we see that we have been systematically kept aloof. The Chancellor tells me that the German Government was ignorant of all the agreements concerning Morocco, and does not acknowledge himself to be bound by them in any way." Delcasse instructed the French Ambassador at Berlin to complain of this language, and to remind the Government that he had answered Prince Radolin's inquiries on March 23, 1904; that, except Russia, Germany alone was informed of the Anglo-French treaty before it was signed;